if so, whether Government have given their approval to CBRI to extend its consultancy service to entrepreneurs;

(b) how does the cost of CBRI differ from the estimates of CPWD or State PWDs; and

(c) what is the reaction to the said proposal by the Ministry of Tourism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Patenting rights of Neem

1080. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have successfully fought a case against patenting of the healing effects of turmeric (Haldi) by certain MNCs; if so, the details of the case and the outcome thereof; and

(b) whether similar patenting rights in respect of Neem and its healing effects on human body have also been challenged in so far as researches on Neem and its healing effects have been made in India since vedic era; if so, the steps taken in the matter and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) A US patent (No. 5401504) on use of Turmeric in wound healing was granted in May, 1995 to Suman K. Das and Hari Her P. Cohly of USA and assigned to University of Missisippi Medical Centre, USA. The said patent claimed a method of promoting healing of a wound in a patient using turmeric powder through topical as well as oral administration. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, India filed re-examination proceedings against the above patent at United States patents and Trademarks office (USPTO) on October 28, 1996 based on prior art which was collected, documented and submitted at USPTO. On re-examination, the USPTO gave a final rejection to all the six claims of the above stated patent. The patentees are understood to have filed a response as per provisions of the US patent law.

(b) As per available information, US patents granted in respect of NEEM are not for the use of Neem perse as a healing agent in human beings but of the active compounds isolated therefrom. Government is not aware of any formal efforts to challenge the grant of such patents for neem at USPTO.

Permission to U.S. Company for setting up 100 per cent Subsidiary in India

1081. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted the U.S. Company, Cray Research Inc., to set up a 100 per cent subsidiary in India;

(b) if so, the functions this subsidiary will perform;

(c) whether the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) and some other science organisations had opposed this approval and if so, the grounds thereof; and

(d) the reasons for rejection of their plea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian subsidiary, inter-alia, will provide support to Cray Research customers and will promote its products and services. It will be headed by a